

Kindly enter the following Amendment:

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 1 (as amended on March 3, 1998), please delete "which disclosure is herein incorporated by reference".

Remarks

Applicants have amended the specification, as suggested by the Examiner, to overcome the sole objection remaining. Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the amendment filed March 3, 1998, under 35 U.S.C. § 132 as allegedly containing new matter for the recitation of "which disclosure is herein incorporated by reference." Applicants respectfully disagree that this recitation is new matter. Applicants point out that U.S. Appl. No. 08/469,641, is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the specification of the captioned application by, *inter alia*, the checkmark in Box 5 of PTO Form PTO/SB/05. Nevertheless, solely to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended the specification to no longer contain the recitation to which the Examiner objects.

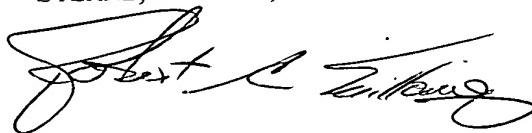
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert C. Millonig
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,395

Date: 12/30/99

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 371-2600